



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 July 1979

*Ireland. tw*  
*cc NIO*  
*Ross Office*

*Dear Mr. Paisley,*

Thank you for your letter of 22 June. I am sorry if you found my note unhelpful.

I understand that, since you sent your letter, you have had another chance to discuss the security situation at some length with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and there has also been the Renewal Debate, in which he fully set out the Government's assessment and the policy being followed.

For the moment it seems unlikely that we would have anything to gain from a meeting on security. But you should be in no doubt that the continuing violence in Northern Ireland is a matter of close personal concern to me.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Margaret Thatcher*

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The Reverend Ian Paisley, M.P.

*tw*